



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1183

Chairperson: DiAnna R. Schimek
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 4, 2004

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

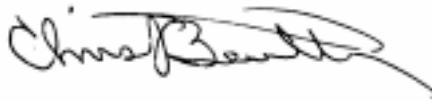
LB 1183 amends the Nebraska Campaign Finance Limitation Act to address recommendations made by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and to strengthen the act.

LB 1183 places a cap on the amount of fair fight funds a candidate can receive during an election at three times the voluntary spending limit for the office in question, thereby limiting the state's fiscal exposure. The bill also provides that an abiding candidate may raise and spend additional funds to make up the difference between a non-abiding candidate's maximum estimate and the total of (1) the spending limit for that office, and (2) the public funds received by the abiding candidate. Loans may also be taken out by an abiding candidate at any time and repaid with fair fight funds.

Second, LB 1183 changes the timing for the release of fair fight funds, allowing a qualified candidate to receive public funds once the non-abiding candidate exceeds the spending limitation for the office in question or spends 40% of his or her estimate, whichever occurs first. This amendment addresses the problem of last minute spending by a non-abiding candidate, thereby depriving the abiding candidate of the effective use of any fair fight funds he or she may receive.

Third, LB 1183 places caps on the size of contributions that a candidate may accept from individuals and organizations. The cap on individual contributions is \$2,000, and the cap for contributions from any one independent committee, political party, or business, including a corporation, union, industry, trade or professional association, is \$10,000.

Fourth, LB 1183 includes several smaller changes designed to improve enforcement of the CFLA, as recommended by the Accountability and Disclosure Commission.



Principal Introducer:

Senator Chris Beutler